United Nations S/2004/459

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 June 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 7 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a communiqué by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Rwandese Republic on the recent developments in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I would be grateful if you have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-37814 (E) 080604

Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Government of the Rwandese Republic is concerned that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and some in the international community, instead of working towards finding a durable solution to the crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and Bukavu in particular, have chosen to blame Rwanda for the failures of the Transitional Government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government, confident that the massive presence of the international community through the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in Bukavu would have quickly dismissed the lies peddled by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that Rwandan troops took, and continue to hold territory in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including Bukavu, chose the path of restraint in the light of grave provocation from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is therefore most dismaying to note that MONUC has not, up to this time, reacted to a declared intent by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to go to war against Rwanda.

The Government is gravely concerned that the belligerent tone adopted by the Head of State of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and his Government and the hostile statements they have made towards the Rwandese Republic are a grave violation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the United Nations Charter, and numerous Security Council resolutions.

The Government is further seriously concerned that President Kabila and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have chosen to mobilize all diplomatic, military and political resources to wage war on the Rwandese Republic. The Government is concerned that despite numerous heads of State summits, two negotiated agreements on the matter, and numerous Security Council resolutions, President Kabila and his Government have not shown the same political resolve with respect to the ExFAR/INTERAHAMWE forces, which committed genocide in Rwanda and are hosted on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government is disturbed that despite the gravity of the accusations levelled against Rwanda by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the international community has not acted to set up an independent and credible verification mechanism to establish the facts on the ground, and has chosen instead to act confused in the light of the lies propagated by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Reminding that all the verification mechanisms provided for under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the Pretoria Agreement have been rendered inoperational, or have been terminated, at the insistence of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the support of some in the international community, concerned that this dislike of independent, credible and effective verification is part of a plan by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue

its campaign against the Rwandese Republic, the Government now declares as follows:

1. Rwanda reiterates the fact that its armed forces were not involved in the fall of Bukavu. The officers and soldiers involved in the events in Bukavu were all Congolese, and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is challenged to prove otherwise.

2. In light of paragraph 1 above, President Kabila's plan to launch an attack on the Rwandese Republic must have other, undeclared motivations, which he should now explain to the world.

3. Announces the closure of the border between the Rwandese Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, effective 6 June 2004, 1800 hours local time, to allow those concerned to verify and arrest, or otherwise deal with members of Rwanda's armed forces, allegedly present on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. Announces that the said border shall remain closed until the United Nations, and/or the African Union, makes a determination clarifying the recent events in Bukavu in particular, and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in general.

5. The border shall be opened only to refugees fleeing the insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, or voluntarily returning to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from Rwanda, and this in close cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and MONUC, and in respect of international conventions.

6. The closure of the border affects nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Rwandese Republic, as well as nationals of all other countries, transacting any business of a private, public or official nature across Rwanda's border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

7. The United Nations, through MONUC, or any other body the United Nations may choose, as well as the African Union, are requested to set up a verification mechanism to expeditiously investigate, and report on, the allegations against the Rwandese Republic by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

8. Finally, the Rwandese Republic wishes to inform the international community of the fact that President Kabila's plans to wage war against Rwanda include close coordination with, and use of, forces of the ExFAR/INTERAHAMWE (currently known as FDLR/FOCA), and wishes to point out that this course of action may prove fatal to regional peace and security.

Done in Kigali, 6 June 2004.